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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W
---------- 101728
P R 191315Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4717
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS; PINT, WA
SUBJECT: MRS. WOOD MAY NOT OBEY EXPULSION ORDER

REF: CAPE TOWN 676 (NOTAL)

1. ANGLICAN BISHOP RICHARD WOOD, WHOM SAG HAS ORDERED TO LEAVE SOUTH WEST AFRICA BY NOON JUNE 23 (REFTEL), VISITED EMBASSY MORNING JUNE 19. WOOD, NATURALIZED SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN OF BRITISH BIRTH, AND HIS YOUNG AMERICAN WIFE ARE WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY OFFICERS. THIS WAS, HOWEVER, MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HIM.

2. HE TOLD ME THAT SAG DECISION TO ORDER EXPULSION, THOUGH

LONG IN COMING, WAS PROBABLY PRECIPITATED BY JUNE 14 NAMIBIA
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NATIONAL CONVENTION MIN-DEMONSTRATION IN WINDHOEK. HE

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SAID HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH DEMONSTRATION BUT BELIEVES
SAG INCAPABLE OF COMPREHENDING THAT SUCH BLACK PROTESTS
NOT FOMENTED BY "WHITE AGITATORS."

3. WOOD PLANS TO RETURN TO WINDHOEK AFTERNOON JUNE 19,
AND FROM THERE PROCEED ON MONDAY JUNE 23 TO ANGOLA. HE

BELIEVES THAT IF HE IS ABLE TO SECURE VISA TO ENTER
ANGOLA ON HIS UK PASSPORT, HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO TRANSIT
OVAMBOLAND WITH HIS LANDROVER. HE ASKED ME FOR ASSISTANCE
IN CONTACTING PORTUGUESE EMBASSY TO SET UP INTERVIEW WITH
APPROPRIATE OFFICER TO APPLY FOR VISA. WE FACILITATED
APPOINTMENT.

4. WOOD, AS OF THIS WRITING, IS ON WAY TO PORTUGUESE
EMBASSY FOR VISA INTERVIEW. HE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT FOR
VARIETY OF POLITICAL AND BUREAUCRATIC REASONS, PORTUGUESE
MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM VISA BEFORE HE CATCHES AFTER-
NOON PLANE TO WINDHOEK. AN ALTERNATE PLAN, TOWARDS
WHICH HE SEEMED TO BE LEANING, IS TO CROSS NAMIBIA-BOTSWANAO
BORDER AND PERHAPS PROCEED TO ZAMBIA FOR VISA AND THEN TRAVEL
FROM THERE TO ANGOLA WHERE HE WILL ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS
MISSIONARY.

5. BISHOP SAID THAT HIS AMCIT WIFE, VATHY, WAS ADAMANT
IN HER BELIEF THAT SAG HAD "NO RIGHT OR REASON" TO EXPEL
HER FROM SOUTH WEST. AS OF JUNE 18, THEREFORE, SHE WAS
DETERMINED NOT TO COMPLY WITH EXPULSION ORDER BUT COULD
STILL CHANGE HER MIND. HE FEELS HE MUST LET HER DO
"HER OWN THING" EVEN THOUGH SHE COULD BE SUBJECT TO
POSSIBLE TWELVE-MONTH PRISON SENTENCE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT SAG WOULD MOST PROBABLY "FIRMLY PUT HER ON A PLANE"
TO JOHANNESBURG OR EUROPE RATHER THAN ARREST HER.

6. WOOD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY'S INTEREST
IN HIS SITUATION AND ESPECIALLY OVER OUR OFFER OF ANY
APPROPRIATE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE TO MRS. WOOD AND USCIT
DAUGHTER.
BOWDLER

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